



Miss H Williams
Heights Tree Care
Mayfield
Hazelmoor Lane
Gallowstree Common
RG4 9DJ

Emma Gee
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Civic Centre, Reading, RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 937 3787

Our Ref: PL/25/1223
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 34294
Email: amy.daly@reading.gov.uk

3rd September 2025

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Ms Williams

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1NO. HORSE CHESTNUT TREE AT 2A HAMILTON ROAD, READING, RG1 5RD - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for Tree Works Notice of 29th August 2025, relating to the above.

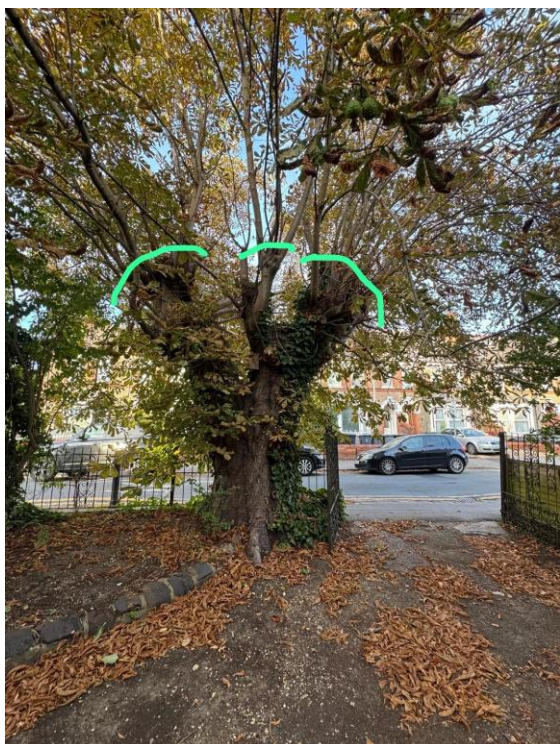
On 26th August 2025 my colleague Sarah Hanson received an email from yourself, informing her that the tree in question has had a recent branch failure. Sarah then confirmed that the failed branch could be removed immediately as it presented a health and safety risk.

You also proposed to re-pollard the tree, for which Sarah advised Notice would be required unless the tree was deemed to fall in the 'dead or dangerous' category. From assessing the photographs along side your notice, it is evident that the tree has been unmanaged for some time. The tree has been previously maintained as a pollard, which due to being left unmanaged, is now becoming lapsed. We ask that care is taken when assessing each branch to ensure that the most appropriate re-pollard points are chosen, minimising the size of the pruning cuts as much as feasibly possible. We advise this work is undertaken as soon as practically possible given the recent branch failure and before leaf fall.

The BS3998 2010 recommendations states '*Retention of live stubs on lapsed pollards will often help to reduce the risk of serious dysfunction and hence decay and weakness developing below the knuckles*'. We therefore ask that 25mm stubs are left above the chosen pollard points to both aid in the regeneration of regrowth and to help reduce the internal decay within the main structural branches.

I can confirm that the Council have no formal objections to the following proposed tree work and with reference to the reproduced, annotated photograph provided:

- Horse Chestnut - Re-pollard to previous pollard points



Horse Chestnut Proposed Pruning Points

This decision is valid for two years from the date of this letter, after which it lapses.

The works can now be carried out.

Informatives

1. Disturbance of wildlife: It is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) to disturb roosting bats or nesting birds. It is advisable to consult your tree surgeon/consultant to agree an acceptable time for carrying out any work. Wildlife and habitat controls are administered by Natural England who can be contacted on 0300 060 3900; enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk

2. Removal of dead or dangerous wood: This does not require the formal consent of the Council. However you are encouraged to give 5 working days in advance of removing dead wood. Where a branch is deemed to be 'dangerous', i.e. where works are 'urgently necessary to remove an immediate risk of serious harm', please give notice to the Council 'as soon as practicable after the works become necessary'.

3. It is best to avoid works in the period immediately before or during bud burst and leaf fall to minimise the effect on the long-term health of the tree

Please ensure that your client receives a copy of this letter as soon as possible.

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above number.

Yours sincerely

Amy Daly

Assistant Natural Environment Officer

On Behalf of Sarah Hanson, Natural Environment Officer